

DRAFT:LLM/2 May 73

Honorable John C. Stennis, Chairman
Committee on Armed Services
United States Senate
Washington, D. C. 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:

This is in response to your request of April 16, 1973, for our recommendations on S.1547, a bill "To establish a Joint Committee on National Security."

S. 1547 establishes a Joint Committee on National Security comprised of 25 members to study: (a) whether foreign, domestic and military policies of the United States are being appropriately integrated; (b) the recommendations and activities of the National Security Council; and (c) Government classification and declassification practices and to recommend new procedures for the classification and declassification of material.

While this Agency is not specifically mentioned in S. 1547, the activities of the National Security Council are within the purview of the bill and include the direction of this Agency. Moreover, in the introductory statement on the bill, it was pointed out that a continuing review of the operations of the Central Intelligence Agency would be one of the functions of the Joint Committee on National Security (119 Cong. Rec., daily ed. 11 April 1973, 7082).

A review of the operations of this Agency by the Joint Committee would appear to overlap the oversight now being performed by several committees in both Houses, including your Committee's Subcommittee on Central Intelligence. ^I We have every reason to believe that the Congress, in effecting any such change in oversight, would be conscious of the need to protect intelligence sources and methods from unauthorized disclosure.

Since S. 1547 deals principally with the activities of the National Security Council, which is chaired by the President and whose statutory membership includes the Secretaries of State and Defense, ^I ~~we~~ defer to the views of the National Security Council for any further comments.

The Office of Management and Budget advises that there is no objection to the submission of this report from the standpoint of the Administration's programs.

Sincerely,

James R. Schlesinger
Director